

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 194156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TRANET EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5674; (B) STATE 162164; (C) CANBERRA
4779

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO REMAINING QUESTIONS RAISED REFTTEL
(A) REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TRANET EQUIPMENT HAVE
BEEN PROVIDED BY DOD.

2. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PRESENT AND PRESENTLY ENVISAGED
U.S. PROGRAMS INVOLVING TRANET STATION 112 (UPDATE).

- ANSWER:

- A. CURRENT PROGRAMS FOR WHICH CURRENT TRANET EQUIP-
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MENT IS BEING USED FOR PRECISE ORBIT DETERMINATIONS INCLUDE:

- (1) GEOS-3 - NASA PROGRAM, COMPLETED, NO FURTHER
TRACKING ANTICIPATED. (PROVIDES MEASUREMENTS OF THE LEVEL
OF THE OCEANS).

(2) SEASAT-1 - NASA PROGRAM, LAUNCHED 26 JUNE

1978, TRACKING WITH 38 STATION NETWORK INCLUDING: STATION 112, PERTH AND TOWNSVILLE, FOR TWO-YEAR PERIOD. (PROVIDES MORE ACCURATE MEASUREMENT THAN GEOS-3 OF THE LEVEL OF THE OCEANS).

- (3) NAVSATS (5 SATELLITES) - DOD PROGRAM, TRACKED FOR PRECISE ORBIT DETERMINATION AND USED FOR POINT POSITIONING. TRACKING OF NAVSATS BY TRANET (UPDATE) EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH AT LEAST 1990.

- (4) BEACON - DOD PROGRAM, TRACKING WITH TRANET (UPDATE) EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT PERIODIC INTERVALS THROUGH 1984. (PROVIDES IMPROVED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD).

- B. SCHEDULED PROGRAM FOR WHICH TRANET (UPDATE) WILL BE USED FOR ORBIT DETERMINATION:

- MAGSAT - MAGNETIC FIELD MEASUREMENT SATELLITE, NASA PROGRAM, SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH SEPTEMBER 1979, DEFINITELY SCHEDULED FOR TRACKING BY TRANET NETWORK INCLUDING STATION 112.

- C. CURRENTLY ENVISAGED U.S. PROGRAMS FOR WHICH STATION 112 UPDATE CAN BE USED.

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- (1) NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SATELLITES - DOD PROGRAM, (SYSTEM OF 24 SATELLITES) FOUR SATELLITES TO BE LAUNCHED IN 1978 WITH ADDITIONAL SATELLITES 79-85, TRACKING BY TRANET NOT YET DEFINED BUT POTENTIAL EXISTS.

- (2) LANDSAT D - NASA PROGRAM, LAUNCH IN FY 81, SMALL SCALE MULTISPECTRAL IMAGERY, MAY HAVE DOPPLER TRANSPONDER FOR ORBIT DETERMINATION. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- (3) STEREOSAT - NASA PROGRAM, STEREO IMAGERY OF LANDSAT TYPE MISSION, EXPECTED LAUNCH 1983. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- (4) NOSS - NATIONAL OCEANIC SATELLITE SYSTEM, NASA PROGRAM, EXPECTED LAUNCH 1983/84. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- " (5) ICE/COAST SAT - NASA PROGRAM, EXPECTED LAUNCH 1985/86. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- (6) GRAVSAT-A - NASA PROGRAM TO MEASURE EARTH'S

GRAVITY FIELD, EXPECTED LAUNCH 1984. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- (7) GRAVSAT-B - NASA PROGRAM, EXPECTED LAUNCH 1988.
POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

- (8) TETHERED SATELLITE - NASA PROGRAM, TO BE HUNG
FROM SPACE SHUTTLE FOR GEOPHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS. LAUNCH
APPROXIMATELY 1984. POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

FYI: IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE POTENTIAL PROGRAMS
LISTED ABOVE ARE EXTREMELY TENTATIVE, IN SOME CASES
MERELY A "GLEAM IN THE EYE". IN GENERAL, ANY SATELLITE
FOR WHICH ORBITAL ACCURACY IS REQUIRED MAY BE TRACKED WITH
THE UPDATED TRANET EQUIPMENT.

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3. QUESTION: DO PUBLIC REFERENCES TO THE PROPOSED
EQUIPMENT UPDATE, INCLUDING ANY REFERENCES TO IT IN
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, EXIST.

ANSWER:

- A. THE FABRICATION OF THE TRANET UPDATE EQUIPMENT
IS AN UNCLASSIFIED DMA CONTRACT WITH PHYSICAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY (PSL), NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY. TWO
STATIONS IN 1977 AND EIGHT STATIONS IN 1978 WERE CONTRACTED
WITH PSL FOR TOTAL COST OF \$962,000. TRANET UPDATE
EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHIPPED TO REPLACE CURRENT EQUIPMENT AT
STATION 112 DURING FIRST HALF OF CY 1979 AFTER COORDINATED
PLAN HAS BEEN APPROVED.

FYI: CURRENT TRANET STATION COMPONENTS WERE ASSEMBLED
FROM EQUIPMENT BUILT CIRCA 1960. EQUIPMENT IS UNRELIABLE
DUE TO EXTENSIVE USE, FREQUENT MAINTENANCE REQUIRED AND
SOME PARTS DIFFICULT TO PROCURE. PRIMARY REASON FOR
UPDATE EQUIPMENT IS TO INSURE CONTINUED USE OF
STATIONS BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAVSTAR GLOBAL
POSITIONING SYSTEM.

- B. THE ONLY CLEAR CUT MENTION OF THE TRANET UPDATE
WAS FOUND IN THE DMA JUSTIFICATION OF ESTIMATES FOR
FISCAL YEARS 1977 AND 1978 SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. THE
RDT&E TITLE WAS DATA COLLECTION IN THE CATEGORY OF
ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT. THE ENTIRE STATEMENT ENDS WITH
"...A DEVELOPMENTAL TRANET STATION TO PROVIDE AN IMPROVED
SATELLITE TRACKING STATION TO MEET CHANGING REQUIREMENTS
AND FOR EASE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE." THIS
STATEMENT APPEARING TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS IS A MATTER OF
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PUBLIC RECORD. "CHANGING REQUIREMENTS" REFERS TO NEW SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAMS SUCH AS SEASAT, MAGSAT, ETC.

- C. OTHER UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENTS WHICH ARE ALSO MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD IN THE DMA JUSTIFICATION OF ESTIMATES SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1976, 1977, AND 1978 DO NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION TRANET UPDATE AND APPEAR UNDER THE DMA SATELLITE GEOPHYSICS PROGRAM. THESE STATEMENTS INCLUDE: "PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR THE OPERATION OF A GLOBAL NETWORK OF 38 GEODETIC SATELLITE TRACKING STATIONS WHICH SUPPORTS THE TEST AND EVALUATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS," ANOTHER STATEMENT READS: "THE INCREASE IS FOR RECONFIGURATION OF THE DOPPLER SATELLITE TRACKING SYSTEM NETWORK," AND ANOTHER STATEMENT READS: "THE REMAINING (FUNDS) IS THE COST OF REPOSITIONING TRACKING NETWORK (TRANET) STATIONS WHICH WAS DEFERRED FROM FY 76 TO FY 77."

4. ACTION: EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT ADOD UNDERSTANDS INFORMATION DESCRIBED 2.C. ABOVE IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND SHOULD ASK AND REPORT HOW GOA WILL HANDLE THIS ISSUE IF IT IS RAISED IN THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS OR PARLIAMENT. (FYI. BECAUSE DMA BUDGET MATERIAL DOES NOT DIRECTLY LINK TRANET WITH 38 GEODETIC SATELLITE TRACKING STATIONS MENTIONED UNDER "MISSILE AND TARGET MATERIALS SUPPORT" WE BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THIS ASPECT OF THE TRANET MISSION IS POSSIBLE BUT NOT RPT NOT LIKELY.) VANCE

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